

DISCLAIMER

This electronic version of an SCC order is for informational purposes only and is not an official document of the Commission. An official copy may be obtained from the [Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center](#).

APPLICATION OF

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE970766

**For certificates of public convenience
and necessity authorizing transmission lines
in the Counties of Bland, Botetourt, Craig,
Giles, Montgomery, Roanoke and Tazewell:
Wyoming-Cloverdale 765 kV Transmission
Line and Cloverdale 500 kV Bus Extension**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

June 9, 1998

On May 8, 1998, the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, Citizens Organized for the Preservation of the Environment of Giles County, Citizens for the Preservation of Craig County, and the Roanoke County Preservation League filed a Motion to Extend Filing Schedule requesting a sixty-day extension of their May 26, 1998, filing deadline.

On May 11, 1998, the Board of Supervisors of Bland County, the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Alliance for the Preservation and Protection of Appalachian Land, Inc., and Citizens United to Protect Tazewell County, Inc. filed a Motion to Extend Filing Schedule requesting a ninety-day extension of the procedural schedule.

On May 19, 1998, the Greater Newport Rural Historic District Committee, by counsel, filed its own Motion to Dismiss Application or to Indefinitely Suspend Proceedings.

On May 19, 1998, Deborah Dull, filed a response in support of a ninety-day extension of the Protestants' deadline for filing testimony and exhibits.

By Hearing Examiner's Ruling of May 22, 1998, the Protestants' motions for extension of the filing deadline were granted and oral argument on the procedural schedule and any other matters pertaining to this application was scheduled for June 12, 1998. By Ruling dated June 1, 1998, oral argument was rescheduled for June 17, 1998.

On June 5, 1998, the Commission Staff ("Staff") filed a Motion for Extension of Procedural Schedule ("Staff Motion") requesting a ninety-day extension of the procedural schedule to allow time for additional studies to evaluate the technical sufficiency, cost, and environmental impact of a phased approach to reinforcement of the transmission facilities

in the Company's southern transmission region.¹ Staff points out in its motion that Appalachian Power Company (the "Company") has agreed to undertake the requested additional studies in order to assist the Staff and its consultants in comparing the relative technical, economic, and environmental impacts of a phased approach with those of the proposed Wyoming – Cloverdale project. Staff further represents that the Company does not object to the entry of the extension order hereby requested.

In view of the motions for extension cited above and the Company's agreement to further study, I find that Staff's motion should be granted. I strongly urge Staff, the Company, and the other parties to this proceeding to explore all viable options which would ensure reliable electric service to Southwest Virginia in the future. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED THAT:

- 1) The oral argument scheduled for June 17, 1998, is hereby canceled;
- 2) The procedural schedule in this proceeding is suspended for a period of ninety days and will be reinstated by future Ruling; and
- 3) The hearing date of July 14, 1998, will be retained on the Commission's docket for the sole purpose of receiving comments from any remaining public witnesses who have not previously testified.

Howard P. Anderson, Jr.
Hearing Examiner

¹The phased approach suggested by Staff's consultant would first involve construction of a new 765 kV transmission line from the Company's Wyoming Station to a new station to be located along the Company's Jackson's Ferry – Cloverdale 765 kV line and east of the Jackson's Ferry Station. This initial phase would then be followed six to eight years later by construction of further transmission reinforcement to be modeled for purposes of the study from the Martinsville – Danville area to the Lynchburg area.